WHATCOM COUNTY CERT NEWS

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PREPAREDNESS

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

WHAT IF TODAY IS THE DAY?
ARE YOU READY?

We're on the web!
www.whatcomcert.org

CERT Session 3??

GOODBYES

One of our local **CERT** team leaders is moving. **Stephanie Soicher,** who has headed the **Acme CERT Team** for several years, is moving to Olympia. Thank you **Stephanie** for all your work. I am glad to announce that **Julie Mitchell** and **Lisa Brown** will take over the leadership roles in Acme.

Also, I saw in the paper that **CERT** member **Sheri Kneeskern** has died. We send our sympathy to her friends and family.

CERT MUSTER

WCSO-DEM Deputy Director **Kent Catlin** has scheduled a **CERT Muster** for Friday and Saturday May 15 and 16.

What does this mean?

Anytime between 9 AM and 1 PM on Friday, May 15, or Saturday, May 16, all **CERT** 3s, and as many **CERT** 2s as wish, living within driving distance of Bellingham should bring their **CERT** kits and come to the **Whatcom Unified Emergency Coordination Center (WUECC),** 3888 Sound Way. You will sign-in, have your **CERT** safety kit checked to see if you have the minimum equipment needed (helmet, goggles, face mask, vest, light and heavy gloves, and flashlight), check your contact information to insure it is correct, select which (if any) of four real-world tasks you would be willing to perform following a major disaster, and go through the out-processing procedure. This out-processing is important. Many emergency workers do not arrive home safely following their deployment. We want to make certain that does not happen to any of our **CERTs**. You will be asked to respond to an email message or a phone message so DEM knows you got home OK.

This same type of activity will be conducted in the county's outer areas.

What are the four real-world activities?

1. Manage and work in a distribution center for emergency materials/supplies.

2. Work in a Volunteer Mobilization Center.
3. Support the local officials by performing assigned administrative tasks.
4. Support Search and Rescue (SAR) efforts by being a buddy to SAR personnel and looking for personnel effects.

SUDDEN VALLEY CERT - For those living in Sudden Valley, you are now scheduled to muster at the Sudden Valley Fire Department between 10 AM and Noon on Saturday, May 16. **Norm Smith** will host the event.

KENDALL BERT - For those living in North Folk Valley, you are now scheduled to muster at the 10 AM and Noon on Saturday, May 16. **Bill Aiken** will host the event.

LUMMI ISLAND CERT - For those on Lummi Island, you will muster at the Fire Station between 10 AM and Noon on the morning of Saturday, May 16. **Mary Stack** will host.

PT. ROBERTS PREP – It looks as if your muster will be held at the Pt. Roberts Fire Station but on a later date. **Henry Rosenthal** will host.

ACME CERT – It looks as if your muster will be held at the River of Life Church on Wednesday, May 20 from 7 to 8 PM. **Julie and Lisa** will host.

Why are we doing this?

In June, 2016, the State of Washington is conducting a huge exercise in preparation for the expected 9.0 earthquake. **CERT** people will be needed to support this exercise in the Emergency Operations Center. We want to ensure you have the training to do this effectively.

Over and above this, when the real thing comes, whether it be in Bellingham or one of the more remote areas, we want you to be trained in doing what may be needed to help your fellow citizens.

Please put those dates down on your calendar.

And, if you are a **CERT** 2 and want to take part, perhaps this would be a good time to send in your background check application and become a **CERT** 3.

MANY CERT CLASSES

CERT 71

CERT 71 completed its final exercise on March 26th at the **Civil Air Patrol** (CAP) facility on Williamson Way. The CAP cadets were great victims.

This class was organized by management of the **Signature – HomeHealth Company** for their staff. **Greg Hope** and **Ron Shrigley** were co-instructors and, based on the skill with which the class performed, did a wonderful job.

New **CERT** members include: **Airyn Yanik, Carli Barrios, Sarah Clarke, Justin Hammett, Greg Jones** (who did his final with **CERT 74**), **Jennifer Koivisto, Barbara Luton, Rebecca Noel, Erika Sandstrom, Nicole Small, and Isabelle Stone.**

In addition, **Tiffany Barrios, Ellen Glasser, Marilee Hagee, Bart Sproule, and Sandy Sproule** attended the class and will become **CERT** graduates upon completing missed sessions.

Finally, **Dave Kosincz**, who completed **CERT 11**, attended and took part in the exercise with his wife and stepson.

CERT 72

CERT 72 completed its final exercise **at St. John's Lutheran Church** in downtown Bellingham on February 28th. It was organized for the **Whatcom County Search and Rescue (SAR) Team**. **Ron Shrigley and Greg Hope** also were principle instructors for this class under the tutelage of **Geri Chumley**. **Greg** and **Ron** are now **CERT** course coordinators. The comments regarding **CERT 71** above are also true for **CERT 72**.

New **CERT** members include: **Quinn Butler, Sonya Kaufman, Brian Lindsay (**who did his final with **CERT 74**), **Gregory Pash, Sheldon Reinheller, and Isabelle Stratford.**

Ed Honcoop, Fred Knight, and **Doug Schell** from previous classes attended missed sessions and are now **CERT** grads.

In addition, **Zachery Leavitt, Bryan McCombs, Zach Shirk** and **Audrey Ugrin** attended the class and will become **CERT** graduates upon completing missed sessions.

And, **Bradley Yeung** decided to review his **CERT** training and

attended several sessions including the final exercise.

CERT 74

CERT 74 was organized for The **Whatcom Volunteer Center**. It had its final exercise on March 20 again at St. John's Lutheran Church. **Bryon Powell** and I were principle instructors with **Bryon** becoming a certified instructor.

Marty Weber, Abby Lund, Mel Monkelis, Dennis Webb, Barrie Flicker, Mary Lee Fenton, and Jackie Kloosterboer are now **CERT** grads.

Also, **Susan Rogers** and **Chalice Dew-Johnson** (yes, that Chalice) attended the class and will graduate **CERT** upon attended in missed sessions.

CERT 73

CERT 73 has been organized for the **Sudden Valley** area. Schedule for the remaining sessions is below. **Brian Lawler** and I are coordinating and **Brock Ward** is helping as a new instructor

Classes begin at 6 PM and will generally be held at the **Southwest Fire Authority (SWFA)** building in **Sudden Valley**.

Session 6 (ICS/DP) – Apr 6
Session 7 (Tbltop) – Apr 13
Session 8 (Final) – Apr 20

Aline Elie, Ruth Evans, and **Todd Ollila** from previous **CERT** classes made up missed sessions and are now graduated.

I would say that March was a busy **CERT** month. I hope you noticed the several instances of previous **CERT** graduates who came back to attend classes as a review. Unless space is prohibitive, that is always allowed.

Congratulations All!!!!

CERT 75

Bryon Powell, a new **CERT** instructor, is working with **Jonah Stinson** to set up a **CERT** class for Saturday mornings from 9 AM to Noon somewhere on the **Whatcom Community College** campus. They are currently scheduled to start on April 11.

Session 1 (Prep) – Apr 11
Session 2 (Fire) – Apr 18 (FD 8)
Session 3 (Med I) – Apr 25
Session 4 (SAR) – May 2
Session 5 (Med II) – May 9
Session 6 (ICS/DP) – May 16
Session 7 (Tbltop) – May 23
Session 8 (Final) – May 30

BTC CERT

Depending on if enough students sign up, the next **Bellingham Technical College CERT** class is scheduled to begin on Thursday evening April 16.

SKAGIT CERT

There is going to be a **CERT** class in Anacortes. Classes will be held on Thursday nights, beginning on April 9th, at the **Skyline Community Beach Clubhouse** (near ferry terminal). They will run from 6:30 to 9:30 PM. The final will be on Saturday, May 16th.

Contact: Rick Wallace:
rewallacepm-ff@comcast.net

JENNY QUESTIONS

You may have noticed a lack of JENNY QUESTIONS recently. I still need someone to pick up this column. If you are interested, contact me.

ONGOING TRAINING

CERT TRAIN the TRAINER (TtT)

Washington State **CERT** Program Manager **Paula Townes** has announced that Whatcom County will host the first Program Manager Course (EO427) and **CERT** TtT (EO428) of 2015. These classes will be offered back to back at the WUECC beginning on April 6. You do not have to sign up for both classes. Sign up for TtT if that is all you wish to be.

To enroll in these courses, you have to be approved by the local **CERT** organization (me).

For more information, contact Paula at:
Paula.towne@ofm.wa.gov
Citizen Corps & CERT Program Coordinator
302 Sid Snyder Ave SW
Suite 140, MS 43113
Olympia WA 98504-3113
(360) 725-5290 (o)
(360) 701-0208 (c)

UPCOMING CERT ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING

New **CERT** Instructor **Ron Shrigley** has offered to give a 2 hour seminar on how, when, and where to use radios such as the FRS radios you may have seen during your training. Ron is a ham radio operator and very knowledgeable on this subject. I have not been a big proponent of using radios during the various finals, but Ron's **CERT 71** class seemed to use these very effectively.

The seminar will be on Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 PM at the WUECC, 3888 Sound Way. Please let Ron know if you'll come. ron.shrigley@gmail.com

TRAILER CLEANING

Bradley Yeung, Manager of the **CERT** Trailer, will be here at 11:30 AM on the morning of Tuesday, April 7 to do some cleaning of the trailer and the **CERT** kits. Come if you are willing to help. Dress for the occasion.

SPECIAL PROJECT

I just received the following word from **CERT Special Projects Team Leader Lacey Shoemaker**:

What: **Safe Kids Safety Fair**
Date: Saturday, June 6th, 2015
Time: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Location: Barkley Regal Cinemas parking lot, Bellingham

We are in the early stages of planning for the 6th Annual Safe Kids Safety Fair. Last year, over 700 kids and adults attended learning about safety from many local agencies and organizations.

For your information, Safe Kids Whatcom County has joined with Safe Kids Skagit-Island to become Safe Kids Northwest, a coalition of agencies in three counties working to prevent unintentional injury in children under the age of 19, and sponsor of this year's safety fair.

If you wish to help staff a **CERT** booth, contact Lacey at 360-296- 6835 or shoemaker.lacey@gmail.com.

WORDS OF JOY (from Joy Krumdiack)

TIPS FOR CALLING MORE 9-1-1

While the topic of calling to get help from 9-1-1 is still fresh on our minds, here are some tips about cells phone use with 9-1-1.

Accidental calls to 9-1-1 happen so frequently, they are overloading Washington's 9-1-1 phone system. In 2004, it was found that half of all calls to 9-1-1 were cell phone calls made accidentally.

Accidental calls will occur when the phone is placed in a pocket, belt clip or purse, and the preprogrammed emergency button is bumped.

Here are some suggestions to help prevent misdialing:

1. Lock your keypad. Check your phone's user manual to find out how to do this.
2. Turn off the 9-1-1 Auto-Dial feature. Not all cell phones have this feature.
3. Do not program 9-1-1 into the speed dial.

If you do accidentally dial the number, stay on the phone. Tell the operator that your call is a misdial before you hang up.

Be informed. Free up 9-1-1 phone lines for real-life police, fire or medical emergencies.

Remember these basics for cell phone users:

1. Always be AWARE of your surroundings.
2. Provide the operator with landmarks such as cross streets and mileposts.
3. BE PREPARED. Memorize your cell phone number. The operator will ask you for it.
4. Stay CONNECTED. Do not hang up until told to do so. If you do happen to get disconnected, call the 9-1-1 operator back

FEMA INFORMATION

WIRELESS ALERTS

Have you ever noticed a unique sound and vibration coming from your cell phone? You may have received a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) - a nationwide emergency alert system notifying you of a pending emergency in your area. These messages

provide information about extreme weather warnings, local emergencies, AMBER Alerts™, and Presidential Alerts during a national emergency.
WEAs look like a text message and show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the agency issuing the alert. If you receive a WEA, follow any directions advised by the message and seek additional information from local media or authorities.

WEAs are sent by authorized government agencies through your mobile carrier. Government partners include local and state public safety agencies, FEMA, the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service.

SAFE FOOD

Loss of power can jeopardize the safety of the food stored in your home refrigerator or freezer. In the event of a blackout, do you know how to determine if your food is safe to eat? The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers tips to minimize the potential loss of food and lower the risk of foodborne illness.
Before a blackout:

- Gather an emergency supply of shelf-stable food, packaged foods, boxed or canned milk, bottle water, and canned goods;
- Have coolers and frozen gel packs on hand to keep refrigerated food cold if the power goes out longer than four hours; and
- Keep freezer items close together—this helps the food stay cold longer.

Bacteria in food grow rapidly at temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit. The USDA instructs setting your refrigerator at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. If the power is out for less than four hours and the refrigerator door is kept closed, your food should be safe.

Following a blackout:

- Discard any perishable food items such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs, and leftovers that have been exposed to temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit for two hours or more;
- Use a food thermometer to test the temperature of food – **never taste it!** You can't rely on appearance and odor to determine whether food is safe; and
- Discard any items in the refrigerator that have come into contact with raw meat, seafood, or poultry juices.

Power outages can occur anywhere at any time of the year. Make sure you and your family are prepared and know what to do to avoid getting sick.

Mark Challender, webmaster
Michael Steed, facebook
Greg Marshall, photographer
Lacey Shoemaker, Projects
The CERT newsletter can be found at www.whatcomcert.org

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC)
You can purchase emergency supplies online at the Red Cross Store - **http://www.redcrossstore.org/**

I realize this is late, but I received this information after I had done the March **CERT NEWS**. I figure late is better than never.

March is ARC Month.

Now is a good time to familiarize yourself with some of the disaster preparedness tools the Red Cross offers, including a variety of mobile applications (apps). The free apps provide alerts for weather hazards, first aid, shelter, pet first aid, and more.

As the winter weather hazards come to an end, you can use the weather-related apps to prepare for spring hazards, such as tornadoes and hurricanes.

Features of the tornado app include:

- An audible siren that automatically sounds when the app is closed if a tornado warning is issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA);
- A notification when the warning expires; and
- Instructions on what to do if cell phone towers and other communication are down.

Features of the hurricane app include:

- One touch "I'm safe" messaging that users can share with family members via social media outlets;
- Location-based NOAA weather alerts; and
- Checklists for creating a family emergency plan.

The ARC also offers a mobile application that engages children in disaster preparedness in a fun, exciting way. The "Monster Guard" app uses an interactive game to show kids how to stay safe when responding to emergencies at home.

Take action today! Download these apps to your tablet or smartphone using the Apple App Store or Android Google Play.

All Health & Safety classes (CPR/First Aid, etc.) can be found by going to www.redcross.org and clicking on 'classes'. You then enter your zip code, and all local offerings will appear.

Contact the Mt. Baker Chapter for more information - 733-3290

THE VOLUNTEER CENTER
Of Whatcom County

Did you notice the Volunteer Center just sponsored its own **CERT** Class? This organization will be VERY active following a major disaster setting up Volunteer Mobilization Centers around the county. **CERT** members may be asked to help. That is one of the tasks we will be asking about at the **CERT Musters** coming up in May.

www.whatcomvolunteer.org/

- The Volunteer Center is at 301 W. Holly Street,
- Suite M-06.

- Call them at (360) 734-3055

CONTINUING EDUCATION – See the latest *CERT News* for current details.
CHANGES ARE CONSTANT –
CERT IS FLEXIBLE
Additional info:
Bob Jacobson
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